

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: HEALTH SERVICES

DATE: OCTOBER 28, 2011

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: OTHERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS SOKOL
THOMAS
CHAMPAGNE
TAYLOR
MCDEVITT

REPRESENTING WESTMOUNT HEALTH FACILITY:
BARBARA TAGGART, ADMINISTRATOR
BETSY HENKEL, COMPTROLLER
SUSAN BARTHOLOMEW, DIRECTOR OF NURSING
SKIP BESSAW, SR. BUILDING MAINTENANCE MECHANIC
WILLIAM CASEY, SIEMENS INDUSTRY, INC.
KEVIN LUTERAN, SIEMENS INDUSTRY, INC.
REPRESENTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH:
PAT AUER, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH/PATIENT SERVICES
SHARON SCHALDONE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF HOME CARE DIVISION
GINELLE JONES, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
TAMMIE DELORENZO, CLINICAL & FISCAL INFORMATICS COORDINATOR
TAWN DRISCOLL, FISCAL MANAGER
DANIEL G. STEC, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
JOANN MCKINSTRY, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
KEVIN GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS GIRARD
LOEB
STRAINER
WOOD
DON LEHMAN, *THE POST STAR*
CHARLENE DiRESTA, SR. LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. Sokol called the meeting of the Health Services Committee to order at 9:30 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Barbara Taggart, Administrator of Westmount Health Facility, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Taggart stated the first item on the agenda was the Siemens Year 6 Performance Assurance Report and she distributed copies to the Committee members; *a copy of same is on file with the minutes.* Ms. Taggart introduced William Casey, Performance Assurance Engineer for Siemens Industry, Inc., who reviewed the Year 6 Performance Assurance Report in detail. Mr. Casey said page 4 of the Report highlighted the amount of savings for the first six years of the 15-year Energy Performance Contract. He explained the Guaranteed Savings for Year 6 was \$205,283 compared to the Total Verified Savings of \$257,952, an excess savings of \$52,670. He pointed out that the amount of savings listed was relative to the guarantee. He said there had been questions pertaining to the feasibility of operating the Cogeneration Plant with the exclusion of the former Social Services Building. He stated the Cogeneration was a system that continued to save energy on a daily basis because it was designed for thermal heat recovery and electrical efficiency. He apprised Westmount Health Facility continued to benefit from the energy savings and the question was if they were realizing the savings relative to the debt service under the contract. He continued by saying the

system had been designed for a specific energy load which no longer existed due to the elimination of the former Social Services Building. He said it was no longer possible to achieve the full energy savings as the system had been designed to include the former Social Services Building; however, he added, when using the numbers of the minimum load listed in the contract, the savings were still realized. Referring to page 8 of the Report, Mr. Casey explained the elimination of the former Social Services Building had resulted in a lost benefit of 503,000 kWh and 1,650 kW annually which would have resulted in an additional \$60,000 to \$80,000 in savings.

Mr. McDevitt apprised that Deanna Park, Director of Countryside Adult Home, had indicated a possible savings of \$15,000 to \$20,000 if the laundry for the Facility was contracted out. He questioned why the County should continue to have Westmount Health Facility do the laundry for Countryside Adult Home when the cost was so high. JoAnn McKinstry, Assistant to the County Administrator, replied that the majority of the cost in having Westmount Health Facility do the laundry was the salaries of the employees. She explained the wages paid to the laundry employees at Westmount Health Facility were higher than the wages paid by outsourcing laundry companies. She stated the cost of doing Countryside Adult Home's laundry at Westmount Health Facility was approximately \$3,500 per year plus an additional \$16,000 towards the salaries of the laundry employees.

In response to the elimination of the former Social Services Building, Mr. Casey commented, the chillers were shut off for a portion of the summer months and only one engine was in use during the winter months. He noted there was less heat recovery as a result of only utilizing one engine which would slightly increase the cost of fuel.

Following a brief discussion, motion was made by Mr. Champagne, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried by majority vote, with Mr. McDevitt voting in opposition, to accept the Year 6 Performance Assurance Report from Siemens Industry, Inc., as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the November 18, 2011 Board meeting.*

Continuing with the agenda review, Ms. Taggart requested authorization to pay the invoice from Siemens Industry, Inc. in the amount of \$2,153.97 for emergency repair of the switchgear located in the electrical room of the Cogeneration Plant. Skip Bessaw, Senior Building Maintenance Mechanic, explained that on August 17, 2011 during a severe thunderstorm the building had been hit by lightning which caused a power outage. He further explained that the emergency generator failed to operate and Siemens Industry, Inc. was called for assistance. After examination, he continued, it was determined that the switchgear had received the brunt of the charge from the lightning. He advised that safeguards had been installed to ensure there would not be an issue in the future.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried by majority vote, with Mr. McDevitt voting in opposition, to pay the invoice from Siemens Industry, Inc. in the amount of \$2,153.97 for emergency repair of the switchgear located in the electrical room of the Cogeneration Plant. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the November 18, 2011 Board meeting.*

Ms. Taggart requested to increase the daily room rate at Westmount Health Facility from \$271.70 per day plus applicable 6% New York State Assessment Tax, as follows:

- to \$284.52 per day plus applicable 7.2% New York State Assessment Tax, for a total of \$305 per day effective January 1, 2012;

- ▶ to \$285.05 per day plus applicable 7% New York State Assessment Tax, for a total of \$305 per day effective April 1, 2012; and
- ▶ to \$285.58 per day plus applicable 6.8% New York State Assessment Tax, for a total of \$305 per day effective November 1, 2012.

Mr. Champagne asked when the New York State Assessment Tax had been initiated and Betsy Henkel, Comptroller for Westmount Health Facility, replied approximately 2002 and noted the requested daily room rate increase reflected the actual daily cost per person. Mr. Thomas asked what the New York State Assessment Tax represented and Ms. Henkel replied it was the amount which was paid back to Medicaid.

Motion was made by Mr. Champagne, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously to approve the increases to the daily room rate at Westmount Health Facility as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the November 18, 2011 Board meeting.*

Ms. Taggart requested a transfer of funds between various codes totaling \$159,333 to reflect unbudgeted sick leave incentive, interest on a Revenue Anticipation Note, nursing agency fees and hospitalizations.

Motion was made by Mr. Champagne and seconded by Mr. McDevitt to approve the request for a transfer of funds as outlined above.

Mr. Geraghty commented there were numerous budget transfers included on the forms and pointed out this occurred every year in the Westmount Health Facility budget. He questioned the number of codes which had been over or under budgeted. Ms. Henkel responded the majority of the transfers were for patient care which was difficult to budget. Mr. Champagne noted some of the transfers were for significant amounts and suggested the budget needed to be reviewed thoroughly. Mr. McDevitt compared the hourly rate of the nurses at Westmount Health Facility to the hourly rate for the nursing agencies and asked if it would be wise to review the nursing salaries at the Facility. Mr. Geraghty pointed out that the nursing salaries had been reviewed and increased in 2007. He asked if the recent changes at Glens Falls Hospital would increase the number of available LPN's (Licensed Practical Nurses). Susan Bartholomew, Director of Nursing, replied the Facility had filled the vacant LPN positions and she pointed out that the nursing agencies were used as a last resort after the existing staffing options had been exhausted. She noted the holidays were always difficult to staff due to use of vacation time.

Following a brief discussion, Mr. Sokol called the question and the motion was carried unanimously to approve the request for a transfer of funds as outlined above and to forward same to the Finance Committee. *Copies of the Request for Transfer of Funds forms are on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Taggart requested to contract with Favorite Healthcare Staffing, Inc. and Nurse Connection Staffing, Inc. for emergency nursing coverage, for a term commencing upon execution of the contracts and terminating upon 30 days written notice by either party, per the fee schedules included in the agenda packet. She advised there had been concerns with the previous nursing agencies who had been unable to fulfill requests for emergency staffing. She said two additional contracts with nursing agencies would ensure the staffing of the Facility in emergencies and allow for competitive rates. She noted both of the agencies were based in Albany and although the rates were higher than the current nursing agencies, she planned to negotiate better rates.

Motion was made by Mr. McDevitt, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously to authorize contracts with Favorite Healthcare Staffing, Inc. and Nurse Connection Staffing, Inc. for emergency nursing coverage as outlined above. *Copies of the resolution request forms are on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the November 18, 2011 Board meeting.*

Ms. Taggart requested a contract with Hudson Headwaters Health Network (HHHN) for a term commencing January 1, 2012 and terminating December 31, 2013 to provide the following:

- ▶ part-time Physician coverage for 14 hours per week in the amount of \$27,227 for 2012 and \$28,044 for 2013;
- ▶ Medical Directorship for 12 hours per month plus coverage in the amount of \$6,620 for 2012 and \$6,742 for 2013;
- ▶ bi-weekly Clinician coverage at a rate of \$30 per hour for 2012 and 2013; and
- ▶ new employee physicals at a rate of \$95 each for 2012 and 2013.

Ms. Taggart explained that each of the contracts were being renewed and she was merely combining all of the services provided by HHHN into one contract. Mr. Sokol asked if the rates had been negotiated and Ms. Taggart replied affirmatively; however, she pointed out negotiations were difficult as HHHN was the primary group servicing all of the area nursing homes.

Following a brief discussion, motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to authorize the contract with Hudson Headwaters Health Network as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the November 18, 2011 Board meeting.*

Ms. Taggart reported the Facility had seven vacant CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) positions and one vacant RN (Registered Nurse) position. She added there was one LPN, two CNA's and one Dietary employee on Medical Leave. Mr. Champagne asked the ramifications of Glens Falls Hospital's decision to eliminate LPN positions and Ms. Taggart replied the Facility had been able to fill all of the vacant LPN positions as a result. Ms. Bartholomew stated she had only received one application in the last month from an LPN who had been laid off by Glens Falls Hospital.

Pertaining to the Overtime Report included in the agenda packet, Ms. Taggart pointed out that year-to-date salaries were decreased by \$52,583.27 compared to the same time period for 2010.

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Ms. Taggart announced, Westmount Health Facility held a bake and craft sale which had garnered \$265 and a check had been presented to the representative from the American Cancer Society on October 27, 2011.

This concluded the Westmount Health Facility portion of the Committee meeting and the Health Services portion of the meeting commenced at 10:12 a.m.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Pat Auer, Director of Public Health/Patient Services, who distributed copies of the agenda to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Auer pointed out there was an addendum to the agenda packet to request authorization for two employees to attend the Home Care Association of New York State, Understanding MLTC (Managed Long Term Care): Positioning Home Care for Success Training Program in Albany, New York on November 17, 2011 at a cost of \$538 (\$269 per person).

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to authorize attendance at the Training Program as outlined above. *A copy of the Authorization to Attend Meeting or Convention form is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing the agenda review, Ms. Auer requested to amend the current agreement with ZirMed Inc. to allow billing claims to be submitted for the Immunization Program for a one time implementation fee of \$199 and a per transmission fee of \$0.35.

Motion was made by Mr. Champagne, seconded by Mr. Taylor and carried unanimously to amend the current agreement with ZirMed Inc. as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the November 18, 2011 Board meeting.*

Ms. Auer requested to amend the current contract with MVP Health Care to reflect the ability to receive reimbursement for services provided to eligible children enrolled in the Early Intervention (EI) Program. Recently enacted legislation, she explained, required that private health insurances cover health related services provided in the EI Program. She further explained that prior to the new legislation only Medicaid was reimbursed; however, she continued, thanks to some intense lobbying efforts by the New York State Association of Counties, reimbursement from private insurances would be required, as well.

Motion was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Mr. McDevitt and carried unanimously to amend the current contract with MVP Health Care as outlined above. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes and the necessary resolution was authorized for the November 18, 2011 Board meeting.*

Ms. Auer stated she had received Committee approval at the May 25, 2011 meeting for two employees to attend the ICD-9-CM & Oasis Coding Back to Basics and Beyond HCS-D Exam in Nanuet, New York on September 27-28, 2011. In calculating the total cost of attendance, she continued, she had not realized that two hotels rooms would be required. She stated that Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board, had advised that Committee consent was required to correct the amount actually spent and therefore, she was requesting Committee approval for the additional cost of \$232 (\$116 per night) to cover the cost of the additional room which had been charged to the County credit card.

Motion was made by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously to approve the additional expense of \$232 for attendance at the training as outlined above.

Tawn Driscoll, Fiscal Manager, requested a transfer of funds between various codes in an amount totaling \$9,818 to reflect employees in the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program switching from single to family coverage for health and dental insurance and to cover the salary and fringe benefits of employees who assisted with the Lead Grant.

Motion was made by Mr. Champagne, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously to approve the request for a transfer of funds as outlined above and to forward same to the Finance Committee. *A copy of the Request for Transfer of Funds form is on file with the minutes.*

Ms. Auer noted there was a Report on Monthly Emergency Response and Preparedness Activities included in the agenda packet. She reported a decrease in the number of people attending the flu vaccine clinics this year and she added less vaccine had been ordered in anticipation of the decrease.

She announced that New York State had given the Warren County Health Services Department 500 doses of the flu vaccine, free of charge in order to complete an Emergency Preparedness Drill utilizing new software. She advised the drill required identifying a target group to receive the free doses and an attempt was made to offer the doses to County employees for a one day period as opposed to charging the employees a \$20 fee. Ms. Auer said an email was sent to all employees advising them of the free doses and Ginelle Jones, Assistant Director of Public Health Division, interjected that only 80 employees had responded. Ms. Jones apprised of a request from Head Start to offer the doses to their families. She stated that the clinic could be open to the public; however, she added, if the clinic was attended by more than 500 people it would be necessary to offer some of the Department's doses at no charge in order to accommodate those attending. Mr. Champagne suggested targeting lower income families or holding a special clinic at the Community Action Agency. Ms. Auer reported that New York State issued flu vaccine to Price Chopper free of charge. Ms. Jones pointed out the free doses were intended for un-insured people who would normally not receive the vaccine. Mr. McDevitt agreed that lower income families should be targeted to receive the free doses. He asked the expiration date of the doses and Ms. Jones replied June 2012.

Ms. Driscoll reviewed the Report of Revenues and Expenditures for 2011 as of October 24, 2011 for the Committee members; *a copy of same is on file with the minutes*. She noted that it was not anticipated that the amount received from the Contractual Code (.4's) would meet the amount budgeted for the year. She said revenues were not anticipated to meet the amount budgeted but expenses would also be less than the amount budgeted. She reported the year-to-date salaries reflected a decrease of \$45,209.17 compared to the same time period for 2010. She noted the part-time salaries usually increased this time of year due to the Public Health Clinics. Ms. Auer said the referrals to the Department had decreased this year and Sharon Schaldone, Assistant Director of the Home Care Division, explained the referrals had been decreased for the first six months of the year due to hospital referrals being decreased by 20%; however, she added, the referrals had doubled for July, August and September.

Discussion ensued.

Ms. Auer said a Report on Free and Reduced Care and a Report on the Rabies Program were included in the agenda packet. Mr. Champagne inquired as to the status of Lyme Disease. Ms. Auer replied that Lyme Disease cases were under-reported due to the State criteria for reporting. Ms. Jones explained that the State only counted cases of Lyme Disease which had been confirmed by two blood tests and met other criteria. She advised the State did not count cases which did not present with a rash even though not all cases of Lyme Disease presented with a rash. She noted the State used the CDC (Center for Disease Control) Guidelines to determine which cases to designate as Lyme Disease. A brief discussion ensued.

As there was no further business to come before the Health Services Committee, on motion made by Mr. Champagne and seconded by Mr. Taylor, Mr. Sokol adjourned the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlene DiResta, Sr. Legislative Office Specialist